



Mayor Mark Mallory

City of Cincinnati

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Mayor Mallory Launches Mentoring Initiative Program to recruit City Employees to serve as mentors for city youth

Cincinnati – Mayor Mark Mallory today announced a Mentoring Initiative at a morning press conference at Clifton Elementary School. The initiative will encourage city employees to be positive influences in the lives of Cincinnati youth by becoming mentors. The Mayor's Office is partnering with the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative (CYC) and Cincinnati Public Schools to identify city employees to match with students to form individual mentoring relationships.

"Caring and dedicated mentors can make an unbelievable impact on the life of a young person," Mayor Mallory said. City employees are a dedicated group working to make our city better everyday. They will make excellent an pool of mentors for our city's young people."

The initiative will begin this summer with a pilot program of city employees mentoring students from Clifton Elementary. CYC in collaboration with Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) and the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens is scheduling a series of summer events for the program participants. Also, this summer, the Mayor's Office will be recruiting city employees to be trained as mentors by CYC. At the beginning of the school year, students will be matched with interested city employees to be their mentors.

"Mayor Mallory's leadership in partnering with the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative to launch his Mayor's Mentoring Initiative is an outstanding example of the good that can be accomplished when City government and community organizations work together in the interest of our youth," said Jane Keller, President/CEO of Cincinnati Youth Collaborative

"We must make our youth a priority. Our youth face so many difficult decisions in today's world," Mayor Mallory said. "Too many young people are not getting the attention that they need. A mentor gives them a positive adult role model that they can talk to and rely on for advice."

A young person who has a strong caring relationship with an adult is much more likely to become a responsible, productive, and successful adult. Mentors provide youth with emotional support, advice, and guidance with issues that they may not feel comfortable discussing with their parents.

According to the National Mentoring Partnership, teens with mentors are 46% less likely to use drugs, 59 % more likely to get better grades, and 73% more likely to raise their goals. Studies have also shown that young people who have a mentor have better attendance in school, are more likely to go to college, have improved attitudes about school and adults, get into less trouble, have improved relationships with their parents, and have higher levels of self-esteem and self confidence. There is also evidence that mentored youth are more likely to give back to their community, either as a mentor or in some other way.